

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 EB-07 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05

OPIC-03 /048 W

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R 121359Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7649

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DMASCUS 2965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, XF, US, SY

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST VISIT OF OMB DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT'S
ECONOMIC ADVISER

REF: STATE 114513

1. PER PARA 5 REFTL, WE DROPPING OLD MARKET IN FAVOR OF
SUBSTANTIVE APPOINTMENTS MORNING WEDNESDAY, JUNE. WE WILL
STILL AIM FOR TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 8, CALL ON DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAYDAR, AROUND 1930.
DEPARTURE FROM AMMAN SHOULD THEREFORE BE NO LATER THAN 1800
(PER AMMAN 2498).

2. WE ALSO STILL BELIEVE MOST USEFUL DISCUSSION OF U.S.
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COULD TAKE PLACE AT SMALL STAG
DINNER AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WITH MINECON IMADI AND
DEPMINPLANNING HILOU ATTENDING. THIS DISCUSSION COULD BE
FOLLOWED UP NEXT MORNING DURING APPOINTMENT WITH IMADI
MORE DIRECTED TOWARD STATE OF SYRIAN ECONOMY, FUTURE
ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS AND WAYS IN WHICH TO PROMOTE U.S.
PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN SYRIA.

3. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND INCLUSION OF FINANCE MINISTER
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(ARABIC ONLY) OR CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR (ARABIC AND FRENCH)

AT DINNER. NEITHER OFFICIAL HAS
SIGNIFICANT DECISION-MAKING POWER OR OVERALL GRASP OF SYRIA'S
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS DO IMADI AND HILOU. WE HAD SUG-
GESTED ADDITION OF COURTESY CALLS ON MINFIN AND
GOVERNOR AND NOW WITH APPROVAL OF SUCH CALLS PER REFTTEL,
WE WILL ADD THEM TO SCHEDULE. MISSION BRIEFING AND CALLS
ON IMADI, MINFIN AND GOVERNOR (AND POSSIBLY HAYDAR IF HE OPTS
FOR MORNING RATHER THAN PREVIOUS EVENING) WILL MAKE FOR
BUSY MORNING.

4. TO OPTIMIZE WORKING TIME OF VISIT, AMBASSADOR INVITES LYNN
AND GREENSPAN TO STAY IN SEPARATE BEDROOMS AT RESIDENCE
(SHARING BATHROOM) AND OGILVIE AND CLARK TO SHARE
DOUBLE BEDROOM AT RESIDENCE (SHARING SECOND BATHROOM).
ADVISE IF OGILVIE AND CLARK PREFER HOTEL.

5. OUR RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWS RE THREE OR FOUR BASIC
ISSUES GROUP SHOULD ADDRESS IN SYRIA.
MURPHY

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NNN

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